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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,115	08/14/2001	Sukendeep Samra	020699-004800US	9996

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EXAMINER

BRIER, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2628

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,115

Applicant(s)

SAMRA ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffery A. Brier

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/21/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed on 2/21/2006 has been entered.
3. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: They are missing the parent claim number from which they are dependent. The remarks at page 4 state claims 22-23 depend from claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/21/2006 have been fully considered and they are not fully persuasive to overcome the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection set forth in the last office action since the amendment to claim 21 changed the claim and created different indefinite issue at lines 15-16.

5. The reference to claim 25 at page 4 last sentence appears to be a typo meant to refer to new claim 24.

6. The indication of allowability is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to Mederer et al., US Patent No. 5,864,782. Figure 1 of Mederer teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying only the nodes in a flowgraph when the flowgraph is very large as shown by 24 and 26 on display 28. Figures 2 and 3 teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying the lines between the nodes of the flowgraph when a few nodes are displayed. MPEP 2125 discusses using drawings as a prior art teaching.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. At lines 15-16 "plurality of nodes in the flowgraph displayed within the inner box and the navigator box" is claimed. Earlier in the claim the contents of the navigator box was not defined, thus, a claim to "plurality of nodes in the flowgraph displayed within the inner box and the navigator box" lacks antecedent basis in the claim since only one node was claimed to be in the inner box and no nodes were claimed to be in the remainder of the navigator box. Claims 22 and 23 are indefinite because it is not clear from the arguments which claim is their parent claim. Claim 22 if

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placed within claim 21 would potentially overcome the rejection of claim 21 under 112 second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hama et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,751,507 in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin titled Project management Environment and in view of Mederer et al., US Patent No. 5,864,782.

Claim 21:

Hama teaches a method for viewing an image on a display screen (*see figures 1 and 5*),

Hama does not teach wherein the image includes a plurality of nodes in a flowgraph, wherein lines are used to interconnect the plurality of nodes

Hama teaches wherein portions of the image are off screen (*see figure 2*) the method comprising:

displaying a navigator box (*22 of figure 5*) on the display screen;
displaying an inner box (*25 of figure 5*) within the navigator box (*22*),

Hama does not teach wherein the inner box provides a miniature representation of at least one node of the plurality of nodes in the flowgraph, wherein the at least one node is in the portion of the image displayed,

Hama teaches wherein edges of the inner box correspond to edges of the display screen (*this claim limitation is broad since it does not state how many edges correspond to the edges of the display screen, box indicating area 25 corresponds to display screen area 23 and display screen area 23 has at least three edges corresponding to the edges of the display screen, thus, inner area 25 has at least three edges corresponding to the edges of the display screen*);

Hama teaches displaying a miniature version of the portion of the image on the display screen within the inner box (*within 22 is shown a small version of the evergreen tree shown in 23*) in correspondence with the portion of the image's position with respect to the edges of the display screen (*since at least three edges correspond to the edge of the display screen then Hamas' inner box is in correspondence with the edges of the display screen*), wherein the portions of the off screen image are shown in miniature within the area of the navigator box (22) that is outside of the inner box (25); and

Hama does not teach omitting display of the lines interconnecting the plurality of nodes in the flowgraph displayed within the inner box and the navigator box..

Hama teaches the image to be a computer controlled graphic application, column 1 lines 10-11, a stored image representation, column 1 line 34, and an image comprising a house, tree and flower, illustrated in figure 5.

The IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin teaches displaying a flowchart that is larger than the display and allowing the user to scroll through the flowchart to view different areas of the flowchart, see page 6 of the EAST printout of this document.

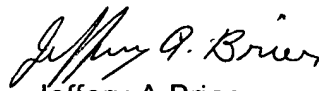
Figure 1 of Mederer teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying only the nodes in a flowgraph when the flowgraph is very large. Figures 2 and 3 teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying the lines between the nodes of the flowgraph when a few nodes are displayed. MPEP 2125 discusses using drawings as a prior art teaching.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display a flowgraph image in Hama because a flowgraph is an image corresponding to a computer controlled graphic application and because the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin teaches displaying a flowchart image that is larger than the display and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display in the navigator box an image of the flowgraph where the flowgraph does not show the lines interconnecting the nodes because displaying a large flowgraph in a small area of the display with the lines will make the nodes of the flowgraph indiscernible.

Claims 22-24 vary the number of nodes displayed in the inner box and displayed outside the inner box within the navigator box which varied number is taught by or suggested by the flowchart of the IBM technical disclosure bulletin and by the flowgraph of Mederer.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery A Brier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:00 to 3:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached at (571) 272-7664. The fax phone Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jeffery A Brier
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2628